

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Edward Callaghan on 10/21/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 30 has been replaced as follow:

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A method for controlling or adjusting a welding process using a melting electrode comprising the steps of:

- (a) igniting an electric arc; ~~and~~
- (b) subsequently carrying out a welding process adjusted according to several different welding parameters and controlled by a control device using a welding current source; wherein the welding process comprises at least a first welding process phase and a second welding process phase; wherein the first welding process phase has a high energy input and a first material transition and the second welding process phase comprises a cold-metal-transfer phase having a low energy input and a second material transition different from the first material transition;

(c) cyclically combining wherein the first and second welding process phases ~~are cyclically combined~~ during the welding process to influence or control the heat input into a workpiece to be worked;

wherein the first welding process phase has a high energy input phase and a base current phase and the second welding process phase has a short-circuit phase that starts during the base current phase;

(d) wherein during the cold-metal-transfer phase, conveying welding wire ~~is conveyed~~ via a wire conveyance in the direction of the workpiece until contacting a workpiece, and subsequently reversing the wire conveyance ~~is subsequently reversed~~ after a short circuit has been created to move the welding wire back to a predefined distance from the workpiece; and

(e) changing wherein a change from the second welding process phase having the low energy input to the first welding process phase having the high energy input or changing ~~a change~~ from the first welding process phase having the high energy input to the second welding process phase having the low energy input ~~is done~~ during or after the short circuit or during the base current phase, during which the welding current is lowered to a base value.

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: allowance of claims 2, 3, 6-15, 17-26, 28-30, 32 and 34 is indicated because the prior art of record does not show or suggest the second welding process has a short circuit phase that starts during the base current phase; and changing from the second welding process

phase having the low energy input to the first welding process phase having the high energy input or changing from the first welding process phase having the high energy input to the second welding process phase having the low energy input during or after the short circuit or during the base current phase, during which the welding current is lowered to a base value as recited in claim 15 and 30.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG D. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)270-7828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu Hoang can be reached on (571)272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/HUNG D NGUYEN/
Examiner, Art Unit 3742
10/21/2011

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